(b) A Special Task Force comprising police officers drawn from both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka under the overall command of Shri P. Kalimuthu, IGP and Commissioner of Police, Chennai has been formed to nab Veerappan.

Handling of Heinous Offences by Delhi Police

2321. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 50' given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th May, 1998 and state:

(a) how many such instances were commented adversely by the Supreme Court/High Court in the year 1997 and 1998 so far; and

(b) in how many such cases action has been taken against erring police officials?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There was no case during 1997 and 1998 (upto 4th July, 1998) in which either the Supreme Court of India or the High Court of Delhi had made any adverse remarks as regards casual approach of the investigating officers in handling investigation of heinous crimes. The instances referred to in reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question number 50 answered on the 27th May, 1998 were those in which the lower/district courts had made adverse observations.

Atrocities on weaker sections

2322. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of atrocities committed on SCs and STs in the country in the previous year ending December, 1997;

(b) how many cases were sent Court and how many resulted in convictions;

(c) whether Government propose to set up special courts to try such cases; if not, the steps proposed in this regard; and

(d) what other measures are being taken by Government to check recurrence of atrocities on weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to available information, 27,751 cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and 4,575 cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Tribes were reported during the year 1997.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 already provides that, for the purpose of providing for speedy trial, the State Government shall, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify for each district a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try the offences under the Act. According to information available, some States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have also set up Special Courts exclusively to deal with cases or atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

(d) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects, it is essentially for the State Governments to take measures to check cases of atrocities against weaker sections of the society. However, the Central Government has been, from time to time sending advisories to the State Governments on the subject and is also providing financial assistance to them for improving their policing infrastructure.

ISI role in Andhra Riots

2323. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed

or probed ISI role in Andhra riots recently in Hydrabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken to identify the causes of the riots?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) As a sequal to the surfacing of a pamphelet derogatory to Islam, communal riots broke out in the old city of Hyderabad on 5th and 6th June, 1998. The city police is probing into various aspects of the origin of this mischievous pamphlet. Several fundamentalist organisations have been throughly questioned about the circulation of the pamphlet. The role of ISI is also being investigated.

Crimes in Uttar Pradesh

2324. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item published in Ganashakti, dated 13th June, 1998 regarding a circular issued by SSP, Lucknow;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to allay the apprehension of tourists to this historic place;

(c) whether there have been 2905 murders and 531 cases of rape in Uttar Pradesh from January, 1998 to 15th May, 1998, as reported;

(d) if not, the actual figures as per the State Government;

(e) whether any team from the Home Ministry is visiting Uttar Pradesh to asses law and order situation; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) Analysis and assessment of law and order and security scenario in the country is an ongoing process in the Central Government, keeping in view its constitutional obligations. In the process of discharging these obligations, the Central Government also interacts with State Governments. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration to depute any team to Uttar Pradesh.

Armed Forces Act, 1958

2325. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has started a detailed examination of the controversial Armed Forces Act, 1958;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has received several complaints against certain provision of this Act;

(d) if so, the time by which the Commission is likely to give its report containing the recommendations; and

(e) the State-wise complaints received by the Commission so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) In the context of complaints received by the National Human Rights Commission on the operation of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, and a case pending in the Supreme Court on the subject, the Commission impleaded itself as a party in the Supreme Court and has placed its views on the various provisions of the Act before the Court.

(c) The Commission had received allegations of atrocities and high handedness of Armed Forces, Para-Military Forces expecially in the North-Eastern States and J&K. In some of these complaints, requests for the repeal of the said Act have been made.